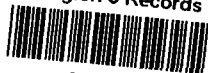


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EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



320348

July 20, 1988

**NATIONAL**  
Steel Corporation

1190400001

RCRA ~~PERMIT~~ FILE  
CLOSURE

Mr. Larry Eastep  
Manager, Permit Section  
Land Pollution Control Division  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
2200 Churchill Road  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Mr. Eastep:

Subject: Spent Pickle Liquor Spill at Granite City  
Steel Waste Acid Accumulation Tanks  
July 5, 1988

Pursuant to reporting requirements under 35 Ill. Admin. Code, Section 725.296, the following information is being provided regarding the above referenced subject.

Date and Time: First observed at 7:30 AM, 7/6/88.  
Type of Material: Spent Pickle Liquor, K062.  
Amount Spilled: Approximately 3200 gallons (assuming tank was full at time leak occurred) was spilled from the middle fiberglass tank of 3 tank system (18,000 gallons each). An additional 100 gallons was spilled when a backhoe used for excavation struck an adjacent tank.

The following efforts have been made to date to contain/clean up this spill. During the period July 5-7, approximately 10 yd<sup>3</sup> of contaminated slag was removed from within the containment dike and neutralized with lime. It soon became apparent that in order to properly excavate inside the containment dike, it would be necessary to remove existing tanks from service. On Friday, July 8, Petrochem Services, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri was called in to neutralize material in two of the three tanks. Following lime neutralization the tanks were cleaned, cut up and disposed at our on-site solid waste landfill. Approximately 35 yd<sup>3</sup> of neutralized material is covered with plastic and is being stored on-site pending notification from your office regarding hazardous/non-hazardous status, per our letter of July 11, 1988. One tank remains in service within the containment dike in order that pickle line operations may continue. The entire spill area has been covered with lime.

A new waste acid accumulation tank system is being designed and will be constructed adjacent to the current system complete with secondary containment (concrete pad and dike), spill prevention controls, etc., in accordance with applicable Illinois Hazardous Waste Rules. Once the new system is operational, the remaining tank will be removed from service and handled in the same manner

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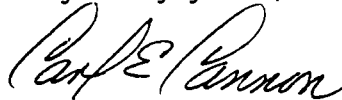
Mr. Larry Eastep, IEPA  
July 20, 1988  
Page 2

as the previous tanks. Petrochem will then excavate within the diked area as necessary to achieve a clean-up standard of no visible contamination and pH 6-9 s.u. based on Standard Methods test procedures. Initial pH readings indicate the pickle liquor has reacted with the material within the diked area and is no longer hazardous due to corrosivity. Hand excavation was hampered due to the fusion of the material within the diked area which suggests the pickle liquor has reacted with the basic in-situ material and thus remains within the immediate area of the spill.

Upon documentation of clean-up standards, the area will be backfilled with clean fill material. As a 90-day generator, we feel closure/post closure care plan requirements is inapplicable and unwarranted, (722.134 (a)(1) exempts 90-day accumulators from 34 Ill. Adm. Code 725 Subparts G and H). There are no known drinking water supplies or surface waters within one mile downgradient of the spill area. The nearest downgradient residential area is approximately 2,000 feet.

We welcome any questions or comments you might have regarding any of the above. Please feel free to call me at 618-451-3013.

Very truly yours,



Carl E. Cannon

IEPA2.cec:sc

cc: Mr. Lanny Darr  
Madison County Emergency Services  
Planning Committee  
201 Hillsboro Avenue  
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Mr. Tom Powell  
Emergency Response Specialist  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
2009 Mall Street  
Collinsville, IL 62234